Disease Surveillance Area Regulations

(A) The chief of the division of wildlife or the chief's designee may establish disease surveillance areas within the state if chronic wasting disease or bovine tuberculosis is detected in a member of the cervidae family.

    (1) The disease surveillance area shall include all areas within a minimum of six miles centering on the location of the detection of chronic wasting disease.

    (2) The boundaries of the disease surveillance area will be established by utilizing existing boundaries of political subdivisions of the state, roadways or rivers.

    (3) The list of areas established as a disease surveillance area will be published by the division of wildlife and posted on the Ohio division of wildlife website at wildohio.gov.

    (4) A disease surveillance area will be established for a minimum of three years.

(B) The heads of deer or complete carcasses taken from within a disease surveillance area shall be delivered for inspection and sampling to an official division of wildlife sampling/collection location or self-serve kiosk within the disease surveillance area where killed no later than noon the following day after harvest. On the last day of the season, all deer must be presented for sampling by 8:00 pm. Hunters must present their deer for sampling during the following days: Oct. 8-10, Nov. 5-6 and Nov. 12-13, and Nov. 28 – Dec. 4, 2022. Hunters may voluntarily submit heads for sampling at any of the self-serve kiosks throughout the deer season.

(C) Any person may possess all or any part of a cervidae carcass legally taken, killed or processed in Ohio, unless the carcass is taken from an area of Ohio that is posted at wildohio.gov. Any person may possess all or part of a cervidae carcass from Ohio that is legally taken, killed or processed within an area published by the division and posted on the division website at wildohio.gov provided that all or any part of the cervidae carcass possessed remains within the posted area.

(D) After receiving authorization from the division of wildlife, a taxidermist or processor outside of the areas listed below may possess a cervidae carcass or parts thereof taken from the areas listed below. Taxidermist or processors may receive authorization after completion of required training in proper handling and disposal of the cervidae carcass or parts thereof as provided by the chief of the division of wildlife. Please visit wildohio.gov for information on the certification process. A current list of certified processors and taxidermists can be found at wildohio.gov.

It shall be unlawful to fail to comply with paragraph (B) of this rule.

(E) It shall be unlawful within a disease surveillance area to place, expose, deposit, distribute, or scatter salt, mineral supplement, grain, fruit, vegetables or other feed whatsoever capable of luring, enticing, or attracting deer, except salt, mineral supplement, grain, fruit, vegetables or feed placed, exposed, deposited, distributed, or scattered as a result of normal agricultural practices.

(F) It shall be unlawful within a disease surveillance area to hunt or take deer by the aid of or on or over any area where salt, mineral supplement, grain, fruit, vegetables or other feed whatsoever capable of luring, enticing, or attracting deer has been placed, exposed, deposited, distributed, or scattered.

Hunting over naturally occurring or cultivated plants and standing or harvested agricultural crops is not prohibited.

(G) It shall be unlawful within a disease surveillance area to hunt or take deer on or over any area where salt, mineral supplement, grain, fruit, vegetables or other feed whatsoever has been placed, exposed, deposited, distributed, or scattered for ten days following the complete removal of any salt, mineral supplement, grain, fruit, vegetables or other feed whatsoever.

Hunting over naturally occurring or cultivated plants and standing or harvested agricultural crops is not prohibited.

(H) All definitions set forth in rule 1501:31-1-02 of the Administrative Code shall apply to this rule.